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ALL-STAR SQUADRON™

"EXCEPT FOR A FEW SCATTERED CLOUDS, THE SKY ABOVE THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS IS CLEAR, ITS FACE STUDDED WITH A SEEMING INFINITY OF STARS..."



"...AND ONE SHINING HUMAN SHAPE: THE APTLY NAMED

STARMAN™

"ONE MOMENT, BORNE BY HIS FAMOUS GRAVITY ROD, THE COLORFULLY-CLAD AMERICAN FLIES HIGH AND FREE, NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD..."

"THE NEXT...SPINNING SILVERY BLADES FLASH INTO VIEW, REFLECTING THE BRIGHT MOONLIGHT...AND SCREAMING FOR HIS LIFE'S BLOOD!"

OH, SAY, CAN'T YOU SEE...?

W HRR RRRR

ROY THOMAS
WRITER/EDITOR
ARVELL JONES
& BILL COLLINS
ARTISTS
GENE D'ANGELO
COLORIST
COOY
LETTERER

HOLY SMOKE!

"This was a secret war, whose battles were lost or won unknown to the public.... No such warfare had ever been waged by mortal men."

--Winston Churchill, in the "Wizard War" chapter of his World War Two memoirs.

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"HE AVOIDS
GLINT-EDGED
DEATH, OF
COURSE--
WITH A FLICK
OF THAT
AMAZING
HAND--"

"--NOTING, EVEN IN THAT
INSTANT, THAT NOT ONE BUT
TWO IMPERIAL JAPANESE
AIRCRAFT HAVE SUDDENLY
APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE--"

"BECAUSE HE IS
A TRUE AND
SEASONED
PROFESSIONAL,
HE WASTES
PERHAPS ONE
SECOND BEING
STARTLED."

"--SOME NEW SORT OF
BOMBER, BY THE LOOK OF
THEM-- CERTAINLY NOT
FIGHTERS."



"FOR HE SENSES THEIR
DESTINATION, THEIR INTENT:
A SECOND ASSAULT UPON
THE AMERICAN NAVAL BASE
AT PEARL HARBOR, LESS
THAN THREE MONTHS
AFTER THE SURPRISE RAID
WHICH CRIPPLED THE U.S.
FLEET ON DECEMBER 8,
1941."

"THEN--
HE
ATTACKS!"

"THE NOSE-GUNNER SEEKS TO BRING HIM DOWN--
BUT HE MIGHT AS FRUITFULLY TRY SHOOTING
DOWN ONE OF THE STARS THEMSELVES, SO EASILY
DOES HIS GRAVITY ROD REPEL ALL BULLETS--"

"AND, WHEN HE
TURNS SUCH STELLAR-
SPAWNED ENERGY
UPON THE BOMBER'S
FUSELAGE--LAYING
OPEN ITS INTERIOR
LIKE THAT OF A
GUTTED CONDOR--"

"--IT IS
SOON OVER."



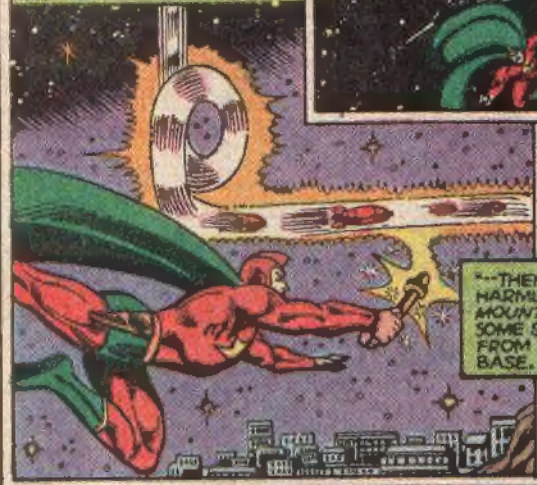
"THE SECOND AIRCRAFT REMAINS, HOWEVER."



"AND, IN DESPERATION NOW, IT RELEASES ITS FULL LOAD OF A MERE FOUR BOMBS TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING CITY OF HONOLULU, THOUSANDS OF FEET BELOW."

NO!

"BUT IT IS ALL A VAIN EXERCISE AS STARMAN'S BEAM DEFLECTS THEM ALL--INDEED, MAKES THEM TURN CARTWHEELS IN MID-AIR--"



"--THEN EXPLODE HARMLESSLY ON MOUNT TANTALUS, SOME SIX MILES FROM THE NAVAL BASE."

SHROOOM



"INSIDE THE BOMBER, PANDEMONIUM REIGNS!"

"CANNOT YOU FOOLS STOP EVEN ONE MAN?"

"A FLYING MAN, PRINCE DAKA--"

"--ONE WHO HAS HARNESSSED THE VERY POWER OF THE HEAVENS!"



"THEN LET ONE OF EQUAL SCIENTIFIC PROWESS OPPOSE HIM-- WITH A POWER TO MATCH HIS OWN!"



"IF STARMAN HAS GUESSED THAT HIS GRAVITY ROD, ACCIDENTALLY PASSING NEAR THE BOMBERS, HAS NEGATED A FIELD OF ARTIFICIALLY-INDUCED INVISIBILITY THROWN UP AROUND THEM--"

"--HE STILL CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN--"

AS FRANTIC PREPARATIONS ARE MADE
INSIDE THE LONG-RANGE BOMBER:



<KEEP THE
YANKEE AT
BAY JUST
A FEW
MOMENTS
MORE-->

<--AND THE
INVISO-
INDUCER WILL
BE FULLY
OPERATIVE
AGAIN!>

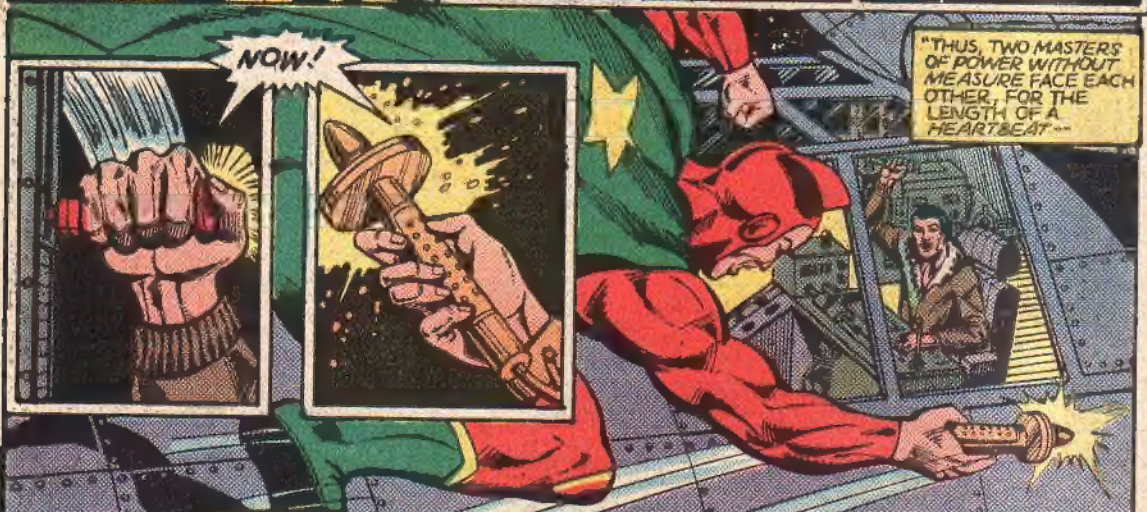


<OUR BULLETS ARE
BARELY DELAYING
HIM, O PRINCE!>

<IT IS
ENOUGH!
I AM
READY-->



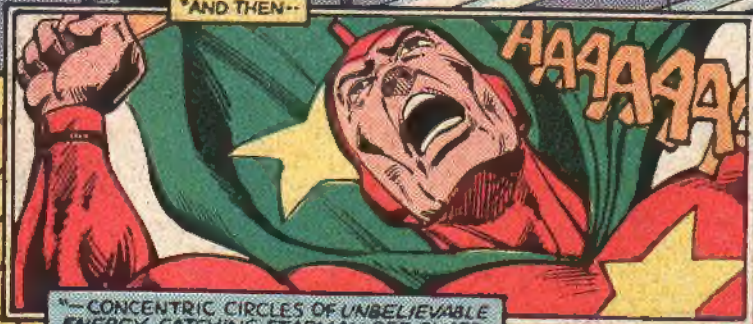
"AND SO IS THE
STARMAN--"



NOW!

"THUS, TWO MASTERS
OF POWER WITHOUT
MEASURE FACE EACH
OTHER, FOR THE
LENGTH OF A
HEARTBEAT--"

"AND THEN--"



"--CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF UNBELIEVABLE
ENERGY, CATCHING STARMAN OFF-GUARD--"



"--HURL HIM HELPLESSLY
AWAY, LIKE SOME RAG
DOLL, HURLED FROM A
POINT OF EXPLOSION."





"PERHAPS THE COSTUMED AMERICAN WOULD RECOVER, EVEN ATTACK ANEW--"



"BUT JUST THEN, HIS GRAVITY ROD IS TORN FROM HIS GRASP, HELD ONLY BY THE THONG ABOUT HIS WRIST--"



"--AND BEFORE HE CAN GRASP IT AGAIN--"



"HE RICOCHETS PAINFULLY OFF THE TIP OF A MOUNTAIN--"

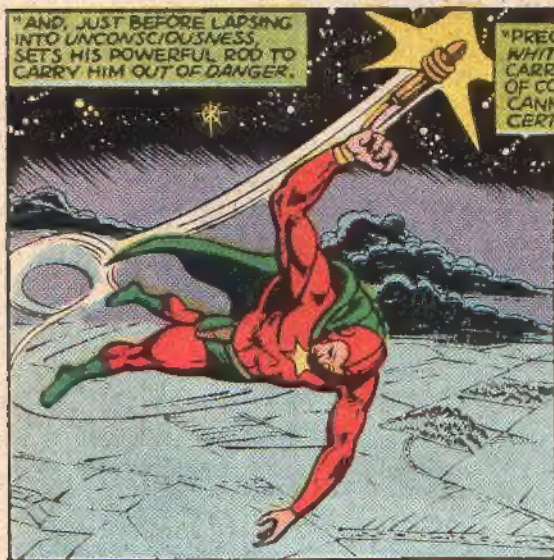
"--EVEN AS, NEARBY, THE REMAINING BOMBER WINKS OUT OF SIGHT, RETURNING TO ITS EARLIER STATE OF INVISIBILITY--"



"--AS IT HEADS FOR A PREARRANGED SUB-RENDZVOUS AND REFUELING."



"STILL, IT CAN BE SEEN THAT, SO HARDY IS THE STAR-MAN'S CONSTITUTION, HE SURVIVES EVEN THE TERRIFIC DOUBLE PUNNELING HE HAS TAKEN--"



"AND, JUST BEFORE LAPSING INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, SETS HIS POWERFUL ROD TO CARRY HIM OUT OF DANGER."

"PRECISELY WHITHER IT HAS CARRIED HIM, OF COURSE, I CANNOT BE CERTAIN."



"BUT I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS--"

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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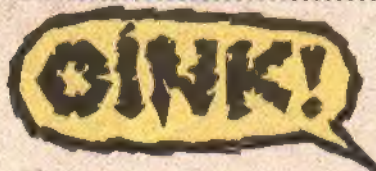
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GOES
ON

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UP
WITH
US!

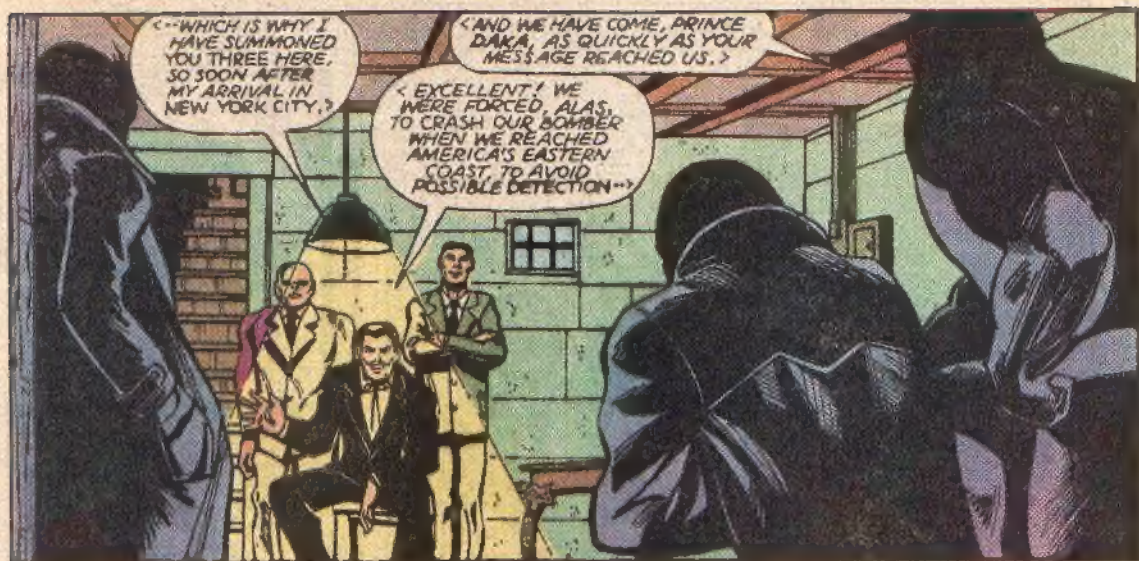


SPANNER'S GALAXY

A SIX-PART MINI-SERIES

AN
INSTANT
HIT
FROM THE
NEW DC--
WHERE
LEGENDS
LIVE!





«ALLOW ME, MOST ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, TO INTRODUCE THEM TO YOU--BEGINNING WITH KUNG, THE ASSASSIN OF A THOUSAND CLAWS.»

«A MOST UN-JAPANESE NAME--YET, THOUGH BORN IN AMERICA, ALREADY THOMAS MORITA HAS PROVEN HIMSELF LOYAL TO THE FLAG OF THE RISING SUN.»

«HIS FATHER, THEN HIS MOTHER, DIED YEARS AGO--THEIR BRAVE SPIRITS BROKEN BY YANKEE NEGLECT AND PREJUDICE DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION HERE.»

«SEE THAT YOU DO NOT, KUNG-SAN!»



«PLEASE ALLOW ME TO CONTINUE THE STORY FROM THERE, MY PRINCE.»

«MY SISTER NANCY STAYED HERE--BUT I RETURNED TO JAPAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND UNDERWENT TRAINING TO BE A SAMURAI.»

«BEFORE I HAD FINISHED MY TRAINING, HOWEVER, A MYSTIC EXPERIENCE CHANGED ME--GAVE ME THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO THE SHAPE OF ANY ANIMAL I COULD IMAGINE!»

ISSUE #8.
-R.T.

«ARMED WITH SUCH A POWER I NEARLY MANAGED TO SLAY WINSTON CHURCHILL HIMSELF ON THE AMERICAN NEW YEAR--SAVE FOR THE INTERVENTION OF THE YANKEE CALLED COMMANDER STEEL.»

«I SHALL NOT FAIL MY EMPEROR ON ANY NEW MISSION.»

«--SO THAT, IN THE SPACE OF ONLY A YEAR, I GREW TO MY PRESENT SIZE.»

«I COULD SPEAK FURTHER OF MY HEIGHTENED SENSES--MY MATCHLESS STRENGTH AND SPEED--BUT I PREFER RATHER TO SHOW MY POWERS--IN COMBAT WITH THE EMPIRE'S ENEMIES.»



(NEXT TO HIM STANDS ONE WHOM THE EMPEROR HIMSELF CALLS-- SAMURAI.)

(MY TRUE NAME IS SUMO.)

(I, TOO, TRAINED TO BE A SAMURAI UNDER HIM WHO IS KNOWN AS THE ENLIGHTENED ONE-- BUT UNLIKE YOUNG KUNG, I DID NOT CEASE MY TRAINING PREMATURELY.)

(THE ENLIGHTENED ONE WOULD NOT ALONE TO SIP THE POTION OF POWER--)

(YOU SHALL GET YOUR CHANCE! AND NOW--)

(TSUNAMI-- YOU LIKE KUNG, ARE A KID! ONE BORN IN AMERICA YET LATELY PARTLY EDUCATED IN JAPAN.)

(THE EMPEROR WAS MOST IMPRESSED RECENTLY BY YOUR SPLENDID SHOWING AGAINST THE YANKEE ALL-STAR SQUADRON IN CALIFORNIA--EVEN THOUGH THE YANKEES TRIMMED BY SHEEN WE GAVE OF NUMBERS.)

(I AM HONORED OR DO NOT, BUT DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THIS LAND'S COSTUMED ONES.)

(TRUE I FOUGHT STARDOM AND LIBERTY BELLE TO A STANDSTILL-- BUT IN SO DOING, I DISGRACED MYSELF BY INADVERTENTLY CAUSING THE DEATH OF MY OWN REVERED FATHER.)

(THAT WRONG WAS NOT AVENGED EVEN BY MY UNDERWATER BATTLE AGAINST THE YOUTH NAMED NEPTUNE PERKINS.)

(BUT WE SHALL MEET AGAIN AND THEN ALL SHALL KNOW THAT TSUNAMI IS QUEEN OF THE SEAS-- AND TSUNAMI SERVES THE EMPEROR.)

*ALL-NEW COLLECTOR'S EDITION C-54, 1978 STILL IN EARTH-TWO'S FUTURE.

*ISSUES #33-35. R

(YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR COMRADES WELL PRINCE DAKA AND YOUR MISSION ?)

(A VERY SPECIFIC ONE TO OBTAIN
THOSE I CAN OF THE JAPANESE SLIDER-
ME ALONGS WITH THE VARIOUS MYSTERY
MEN MAY OTHERWISE USE AGAINST
JAPAN)

(WITHOUT ADOPTING
OUR ALL'S PARTNERS,
GERMANY AND ITALY,
OF OUR INTENTIONS,)

(I WILL HELP YOU, OF
COURSE, MY PRINCE,
BUT I FEAR AID FROM
GET LITTLE AID FROM
OTHER JAPANESE-
AMERICANS.)

(AS I LEARNED
TO MY SORROW, MOST
ARE DISGUSTINGLY
LOYAL TO THE UNITED
STATES.)

(A WISE DECISION,
O PRINCE. THE NAZIS
AND THE FASCISTS
ARE NOT MEN OF
HONOR, AS ARE WE
OF NIPPON. *)

* JAPAN'S OWN NAME
FOR ITSELF. ** R.

(PERHAPS THAT WILL CHANGE ONE DAY SOON,
MY PRETTY ONE--WHEN THEY DISCOVER THE
SECRET PLANS THEIR "FELLOW AMERICANS"
HAVE IN STORE FOR THEM.)

(PERHAPS)

(IN THE
AM AM ME
WE WE WE
WE WE WE
CAN TALL
ALONE)

(YOU MEAN TO SAY, O PRINCE, THAT YOU
ARE AFTER SUCH MYSTERY-WEAPONS AS--)

(STARMAN'S GRAVITY
ROD, WHICH WITH
FOR I MYSELF HAVE
IN THE
AWESOME POWER)

(OF COURSE WE WILL NOT
RELY ON EVEN AS THERE IS
NO OR ANY OTHER DRIZES
(WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO
FORGIVE OUR WAY)

(GLADLY WILL I
UNDERTAKE SUCH A
MISSION AGAINST THE
DOGS OF THE ALL-STAR
SQUADRON
HOW? WHERE?)

(THE "WOW," BOY, IS
PRESENT IN THE FORM
OF YOU THREE AND AS
FOR THE "WHERE"--)

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←--THEY THEMSELVES HAVE FOOLISHLY SHOWN US, BY ALLOWING THE VERY LOCATION OF THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS TO BE IDENTIFIED--

--ON THE COVER OF ONE OF THEIR NATIONAL MAGAZINES-->

TIME

TARANTULA'S JOURNAL CONT. 1
IT'S A CRAZY LIE I'M DISCOVERING BEING A SO-CALLED MYSTERY MAN

ONE MINUTE, FIREBRAND'S CATCHING STARMAN AS HE FALLS OUT OF THE SKY OVER QUEENS - THE NEXT WE'RE ALL ARGUING ABOUT HOW HE MIGHT'VE GOT THERE.

INVISIBLE BOMBERS? YOU'VE GOT TO ADMITTED, THAT'S A BIT HARD TO SWALLOW.

WHY? IS IT REALLY ANY MORE UNBELIEVABLE THAN WONDER WOMAN'S INVISIBLE PLANE?

STARMAN'S GOT A POINT, PEOPLE...

"FROM LAST ISSUE" Reby.

"BUT DIANA'S PLANE IS THE PRODUCT OF SECRET AMAZON SCIENCE--WITH MAYBE A BIT OF MAGIC THROWN IN, FOR ALL WE KNOW

AND HOW DO WE KNOW TULLO AND THE BOYS HAVEN'T SOMEHOW LATCHED ONTO THAT SECRET OR SOMETHING LIKE IT?

STILL, THAT "EMILY" BOMBER YOU ENCOUNTERED IS PROBABLY SAFE BACK IN JAPAN BY NOW--

IF THEY HAVE-- NOW!

OR ELSE IT'S PROBABLY CRASHED INTO THE SEA, SINCE IT WAS OBVIOUSLY ON A SUICIDE MISSION

WAS IT? I WONDER

HEY--WHAT DAY IS IT, ANYWAY?

THE NIGHT OF MARCH 4TH--A WEDNESDAY, IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU

THANKS BUT-- DON'T THINK I'VE MET YOU BEFORE, FELLA.

NAME'S WILL EVERETT... ALIAS AMAZING-MAN

WEDNESDAY? THEN -MY RUN IN WITH THOSE BOMBERS WAS A WHOLE DAY AGO

YOU'RE RIGHT, LIBERTY BELL-- IT COULD BE ANYWHERE BY NOW, EVEN IN THE SKIES OVER NEW YORK!

WHOA! TED! EVEN IF IT COULD BE-- IT ISN'T THE WAY YOU TOLD US THE STORY, THOSE PLANES AREN'T EQUIPPED TO HOLD MANY BOMBS ANYWAY.

I KNOW, I KNOW! IT'S JUST-- WELL, THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE FACE THAT I GLIMPSED INSIDE SOMETHING SO INDESCRIBABLY EVIL-- MOKING RUTHLESS--!

HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M WALKING ON YOU, OLD BUDDY-- BUT I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY ARMY BASE

HUH? YOU MEAN THE GREEN LANTERN IS SECRETLY IN THE ARMY?

WHAT ARE YOU? A CAPTAIN? A GENERAL, MAYBE?

NODE, WILL JUST DO WIFE FIRST-CLASS ALAN SCOTT

AND I CAN'T EXPECT MY SERGEANT-DYBY DICKLES-- TO COUL FOR HIS EMPLOYER FOREVER

ANYBODY WANT A LIFT PART WAY?

NO LIFT--BUT I'VE GOT TO CHECK IN WITH SEE'S ALL/ TELLS ALL NEWS MYSELF.

ABOUT THAT JOHNNY-- AS CHAIRMAN I'M NOT SURE I'M GOING TO HAVE TIME TO

DON'T FORGET BELLE--WE'VE GOT A TRIP PLANNED FOR THIS WEEKEND.

YOU KNOW, LADY--

--THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU--

WH

YOU'RE SO AMPULS VE!

BE

SEEIN

VA!

UH--SORRY ABOUT THAT LITTLE OUTBURST, FOLKS JOHNNY IS WELL--ER--

HE'S JOHNNY QUICK, THAT'S ALL.

AND JOAN 'XED I'M BETT'N' LARRY LAURENCE WOULD'NT WANT HIM ANY OTHER WAY!

GOTTA GET BACK TO BANNEERMAN (CHEMICAL MYSELF) AWAY! BUT HOW'S ABOUT SHOWING A GIFT WE THOUGHT ABOUT THE BIG APPLE FRIDAY NIGHT?

AFRAID MY DAD'S THROWING A COSTUME BASH AT HIS PENTHOUSE, REX..

BUT IF YOU'D LIKE ME TO WANGLE YOU AN INVITE!

I'M NOT SURE YOU'D BE ON RED!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?

I'VE BEEN WORKING UP MY NERVE FOR WEEKS TO ASK DANETTE OUT AND THAT GUY--

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY CALL HIM THE MAN OF THE HOUR, TARANTULA.

AT LEAST WHEN YOU DO GO OUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SNEAK A RUBBER MASK OVER YOUR METAL PUSS

AND PRETEND TO BE SOME BODY NAMED "TARANTULA" JUST TO HAVE A DATE WITH AN EX-FURBER WHO THINKS YOU DIED MONTHS AGO!

YEAH, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN, BOB

GLAD TO HEAR YOU'LL BE STAYING IN ONE OF OUR SUITES RYAN! A WHOLE WILL AGAIN WE OWN THE ALL STAR

YOU ALREADY HAVE

SOMEbody SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A LEP?

I'LL TRY TO MAKE ME UP HAWKMAN

JUST BACK TO MANHATTAN

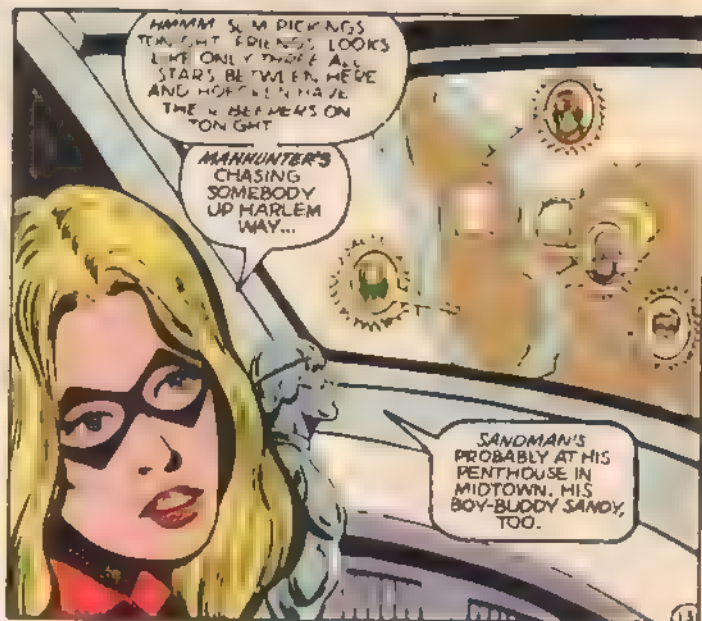
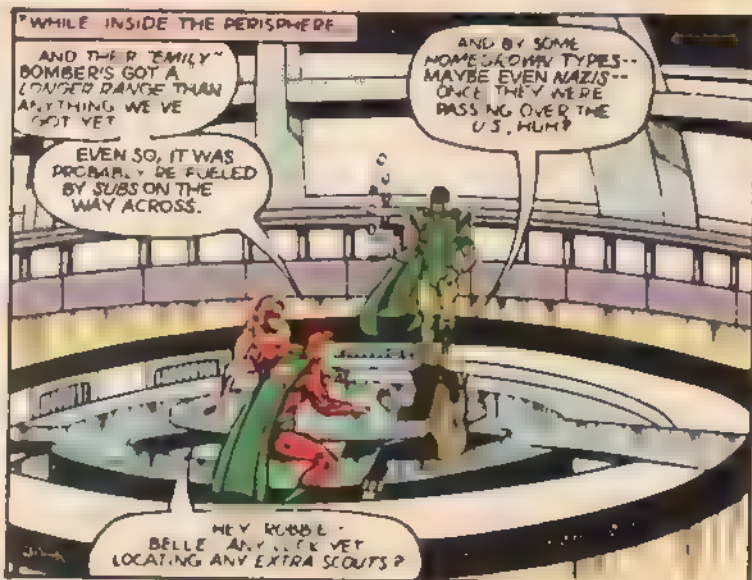
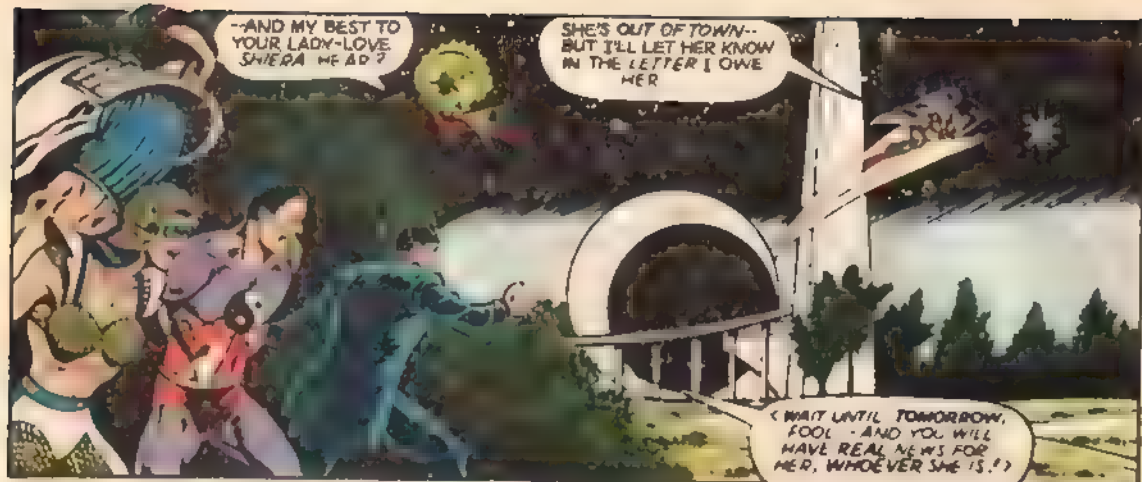
...SINCE I'VE GOT TO PASS THERE TO GET BACK TO JERSEY, ANYWAY.

SO LONG, GUYS

WHO'D SAY YOU SHOULD TURN THAT RING OF YOURS INTO A RIDE AT CONEY ISLAND LANTERN?

SEE YOU SOON, FELLAS

KEEP EM FLYING, HAWK



AND THE GLADIATOR LOOKS TO BE POLYNESIAN HIS BEAT IN SUICIDE BOMB AS PATROLMAN JIM HARPER

A BUNCH OF GREAT GUYS AND ALL THAT, BUT

I KNOW NONE OF THEM NOT EVEN MANMUNTER HAS THE KIND OF SPECIAL POWERS THAT MIGHT HELP US MUCH IN TRACKING DOWN THAT PLANE OR ITS CREW

MAYBE I'M NEW HERE, STARMAN, BUT I STILL DON'T GET WHY YOU THINK THAT PLANE'S NOT BACK IN JAPAN BY NOW.

IT'S CRAZY, I KNOW-- JUST A HUNCH, REALLY--

--UNLESS YOUR GRAVITY BOOTS TOLD YOU MORE THAN YOU KNOW HOW TO CONSCIOUSLY READ, MAYBE?

COULD BE WHEREVER THEY ARE, THOUGH

IF THEY MADE IT TO THE STATES THERE'S THOUSANDS OF JAPS IN THIS COUNTRY WHO'LL HELP THEM

WHA?

SURE! HELL, THE OLDER ONES AREN'T EVEN CITIZENS!

YOU SERIOUS? THE WAY I HEAR IT, MOST OF EM WOULD BE-- IF OUR MUTTY IMMIGRATION LAWS LET 'EM

WILL'S RIGHT, TED-- AND YOU KNOW IT!

LOOK, I KNOW HOW IT IS. I USED TO BE PREJUDICED MYSELF, AFTER MY BROTHER GOT SHOT UP AT PEARL...

PREJUDICED, NOTHING I'VE JUST BEEN OVER THERE. REMEMBER? YOU THINK ALL THAT COULD'VE HAPPENED WITHOUT HAWAII BEING A NEST OF JAPANESE SPIES?

I DON'T KNOW-- AND NEITHER DO YOU

MAYBE I DO! LOOK, I'M NOT CLAIMING ALL NISEI OR THEIR FOLKS ARE SPIES.

JUST EVERYBODY YOU DON'T PERSONALLY VOUCH FOR, HUH?

TAKE IT EASY, YOU TWO

*NISEI = FIRST GENERATION AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT

LISTEN TO THE LADY! RIGHT NOW WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT ONE Lousy PLANE LOAD OF ENEMIES DIRECT FROM TOKYO-- NOT A SUPPOSED 'FIFTH COLUMN'

THAT WAS MERELY THE BEGINNING, YANKEE SOW! OBSERVE!

SNIT

SWAK

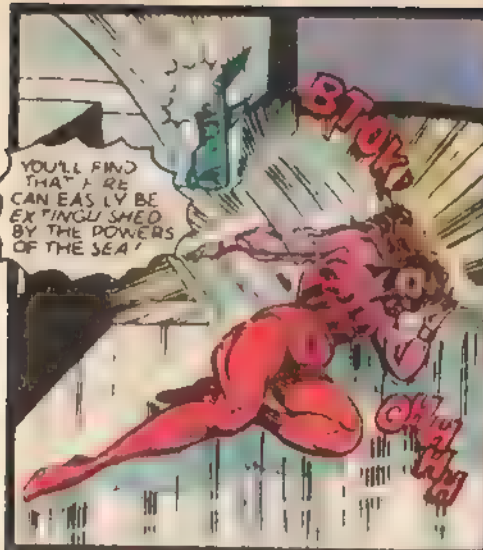
G-GET OUT OF HERE, BELLE, BEFORE IT GETS YOU TOO!

LORD! I KNOW MY ROBOT MAN FEELS NO PAIN--SINCE ONLY HIS BRAIN'S REALLY HUMAN--BUT JUST THE SIGHT OF HIM, BEING CUT UP LIKE SO MUCH S.A.G.E--!

ALL STARS! NO TROUBLE!

LET'S SEE IF A SPOT OF BLOOD CAN BE SOME THROWING CAN--

SURE! NO'S BLEEDING! BUT STALKMAN WAS ON TALKET WITH THAT, ANYWAY!

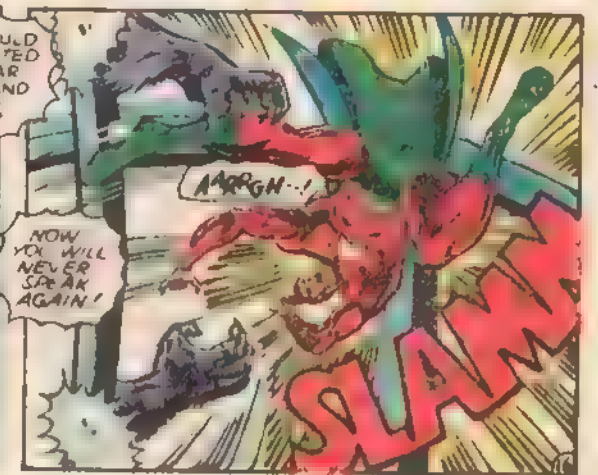
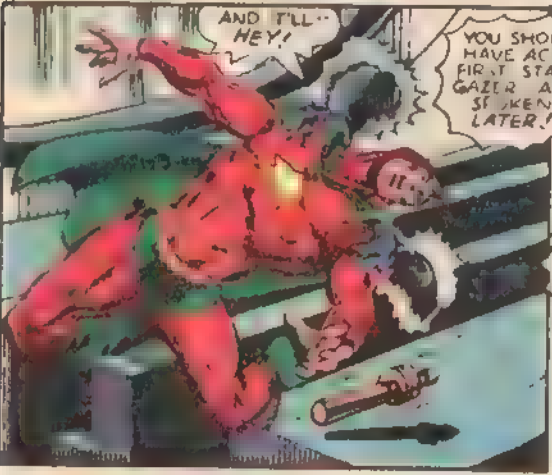
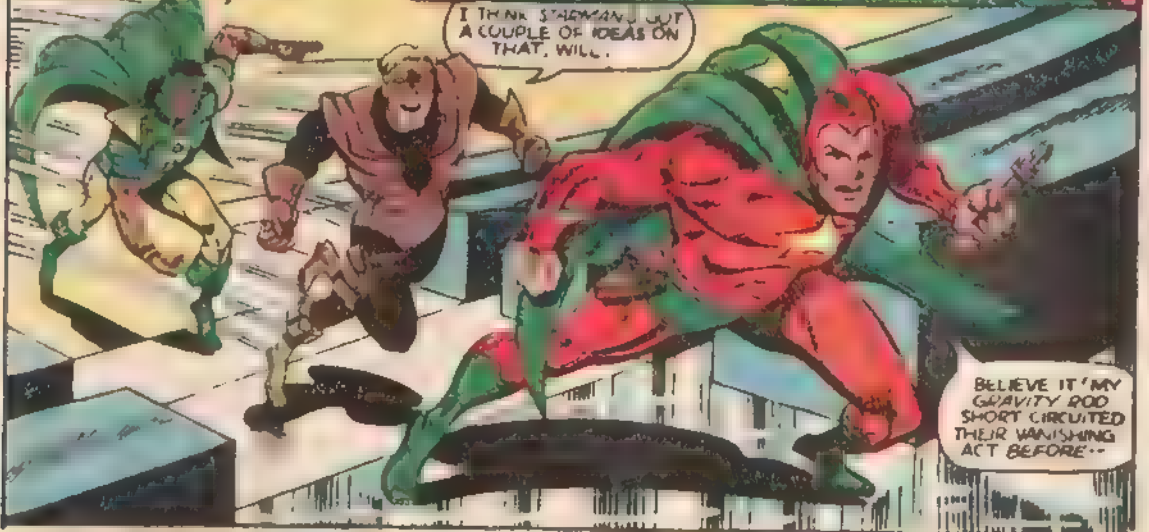


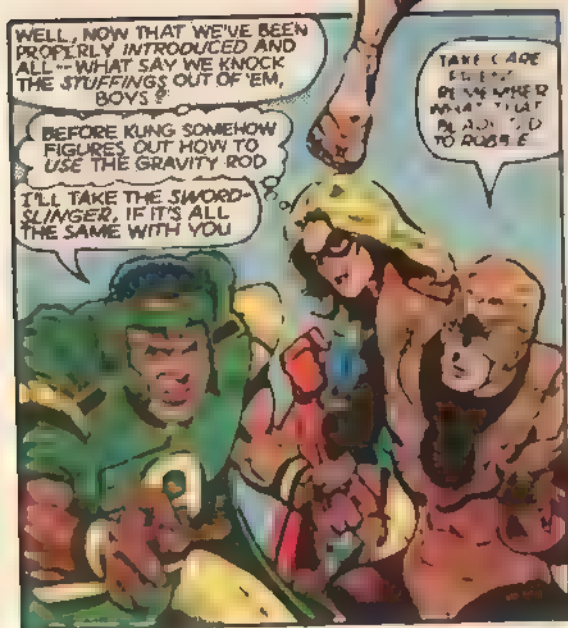
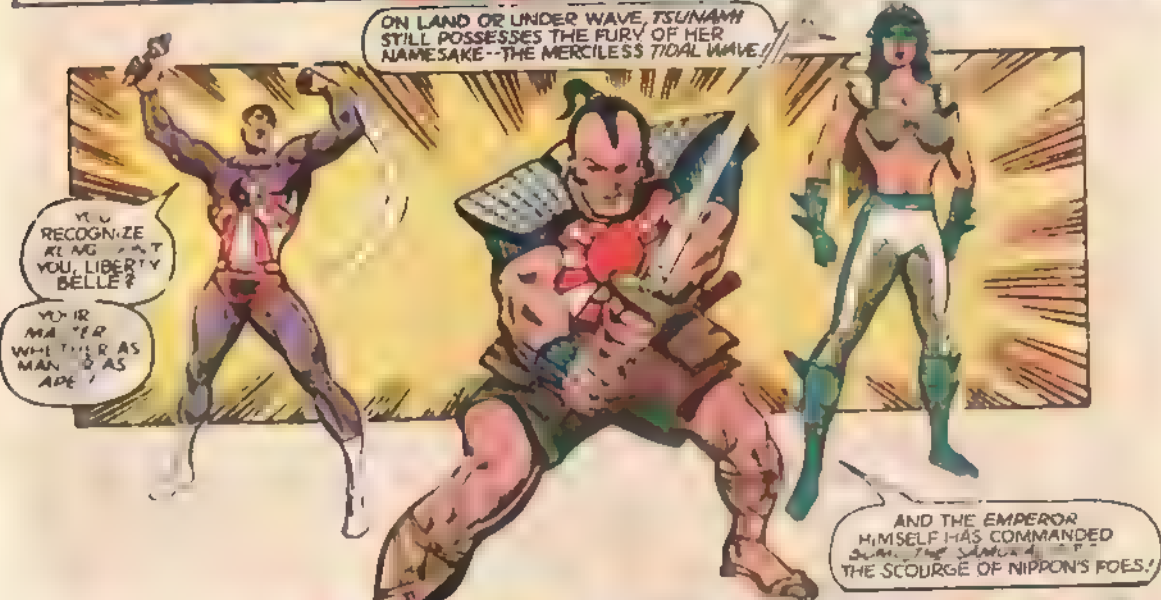
WH--? THAT WAS A GIRL'S VOICE-- BUT WHOEVER JUST BELTED DOOR BRANDY WASN'T ANY DEBUTANTE!

IT SOUNDED LIKE-- SURE! THAT TSUNAMI CHARACTER BELLE AND I TACKLED ON THE WEST COAST! BUT WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?

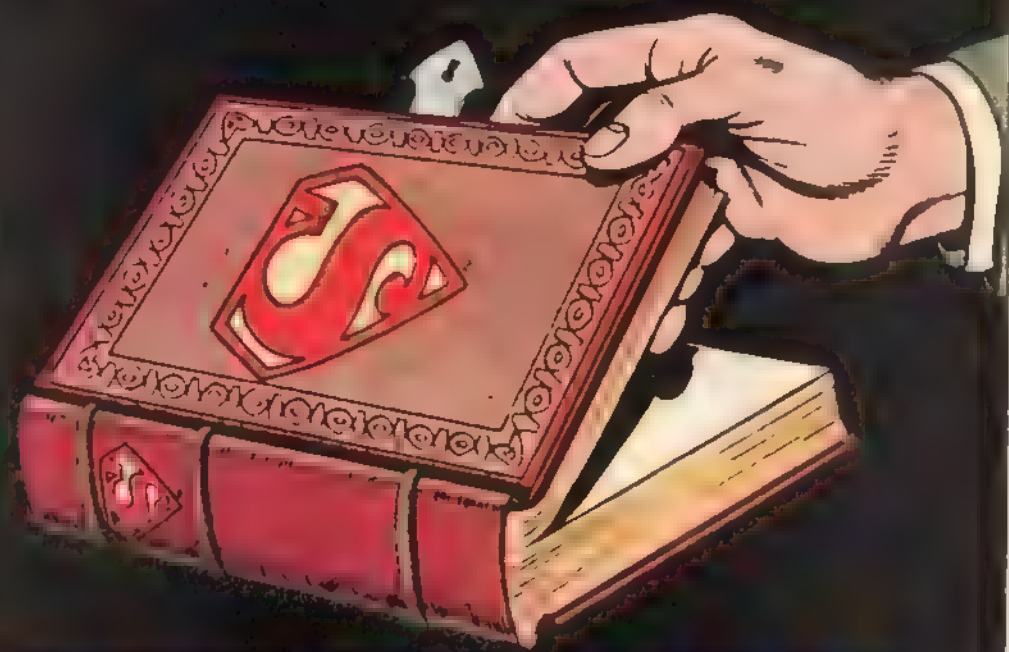
QUESTION IS--HOW'RE WE GONNA FIGHT WHAT WE CAN'T SEE? I CAN PROTECT MYSELF WELL ENOUGH, BUT--

SHE'S HERE MAN-- THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!





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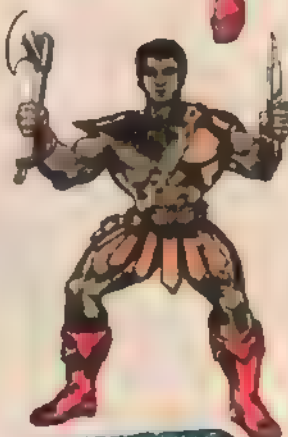
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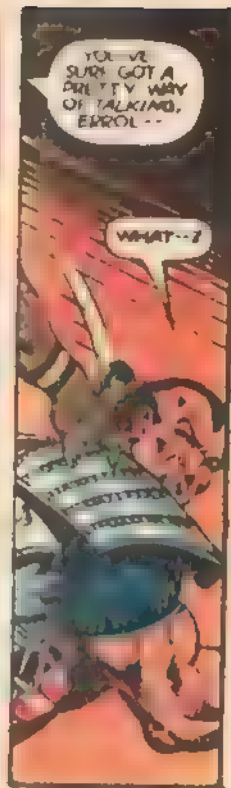
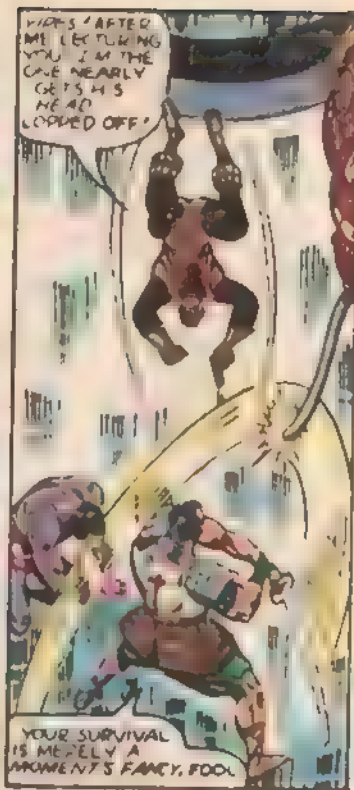
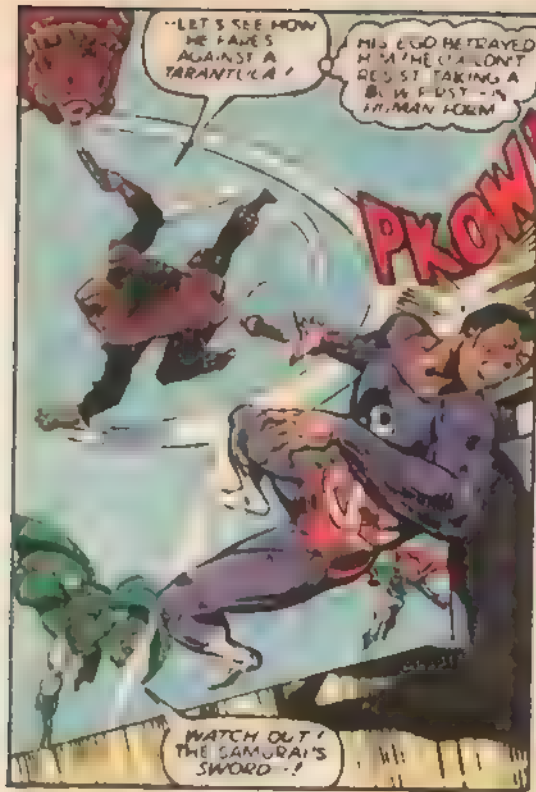
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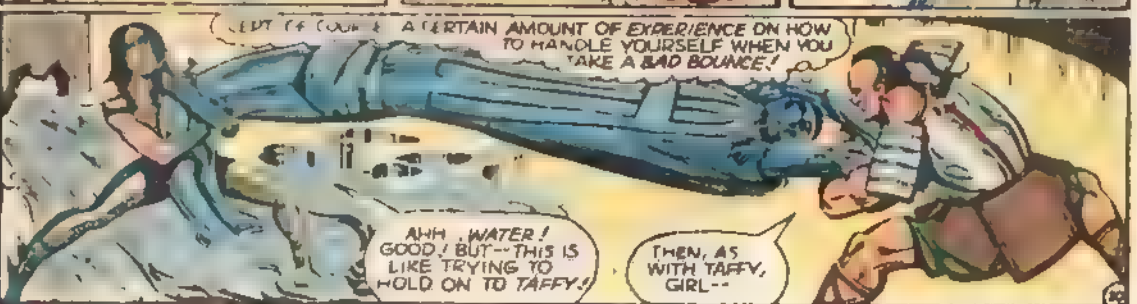
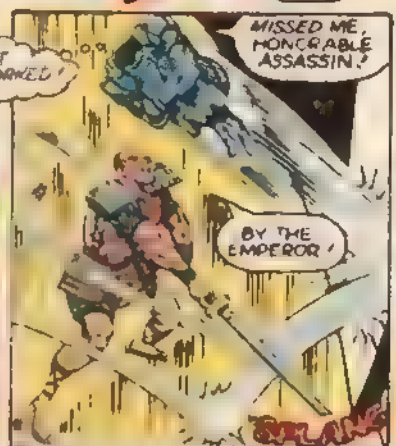
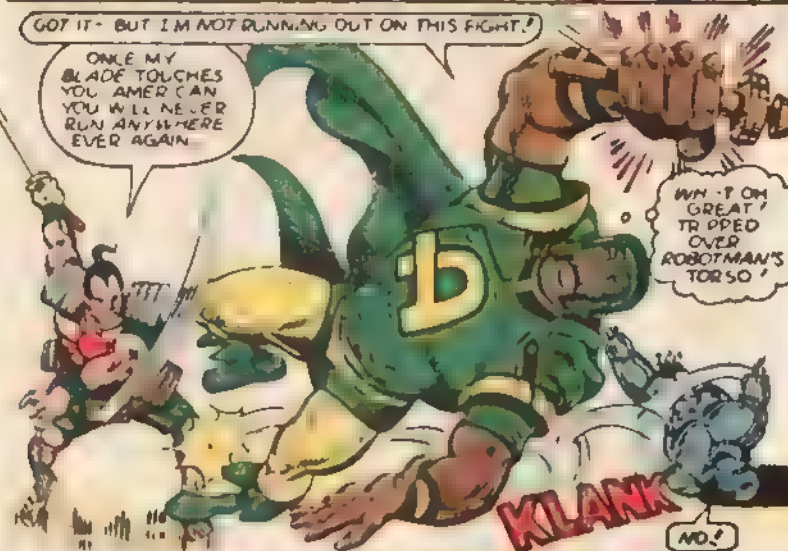
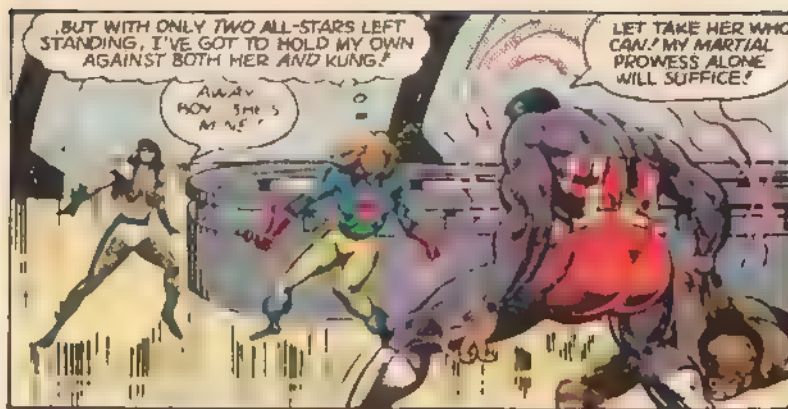
Kmart
THE SAVING PLACE

STORES!

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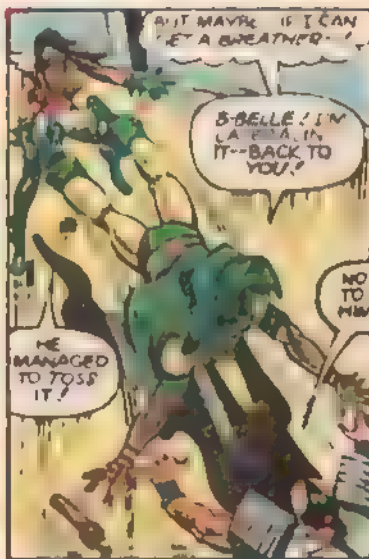




--WE MUST DULL!

CAN'T CHANGE BACK WHILE I'M SO STRAINED OUT MY LUNGS-- WOULD BE TOO-- TO BE SOO SUREDS!

ARRRRHH...



BUT MAYBE IF I CAN GET A BREATHER...

B-BELLE! I'M LA--IN IT--BACK TO YOU!

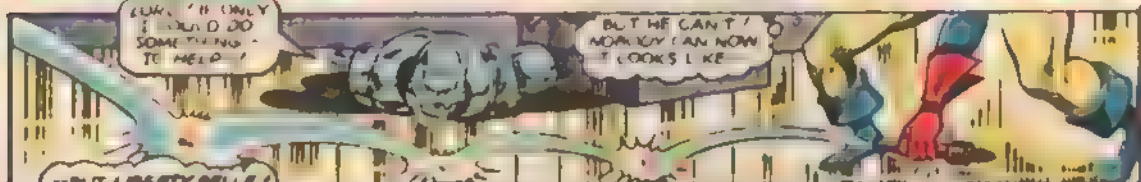
HE MANAGED TO TOSS IT!

NO NEED TO MO..O HIM NOW



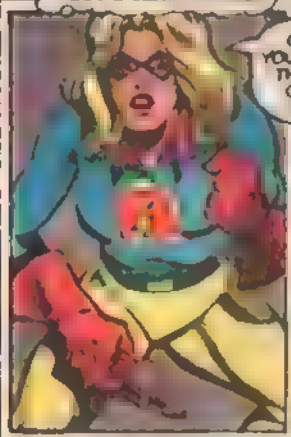
SINCE HE HAS BEEN RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE STRAIN!

THUD!



LOOK, IF ONLY I COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP!

BUT HE CAN'T! NOBODY CAN NOW! LOOKS LIKE



--BUT LIBERTY BELLE!

ORAY GANG YOU WANT THIS THING YOU COME AND GET IT!

WOULDN'T YOU KNOW? THEY'RE TAKING ME AT MY WORD

IF ONLY STARMAN HAD TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE THE GRAVITY DOO--I COULD TOSS THEM AROUND LIKE SO MANY BALLS!

YOU CAN FINISH HER REFS, I'LL DISPOSE OF THE NEGRO



SUITS ARE WITH MY ADDITIONAL GUNING I SHOULD BE ABLE TO

Y'RE HE'S HAVING ALAIN--SO FAST MY BLAW WENT RIGHT PAST HIM!

YOU ARE BRAVE, GIRL...



AND SA IF YOU'LL BUT DROP YOUR WEAPON WITHOUT BLATHER CRYING!



I WILL GRANT YOU A QUICK AND HONORABLE DEATH!

YOU SHOULD IT YOU SNAKE IN-THE GRASS!

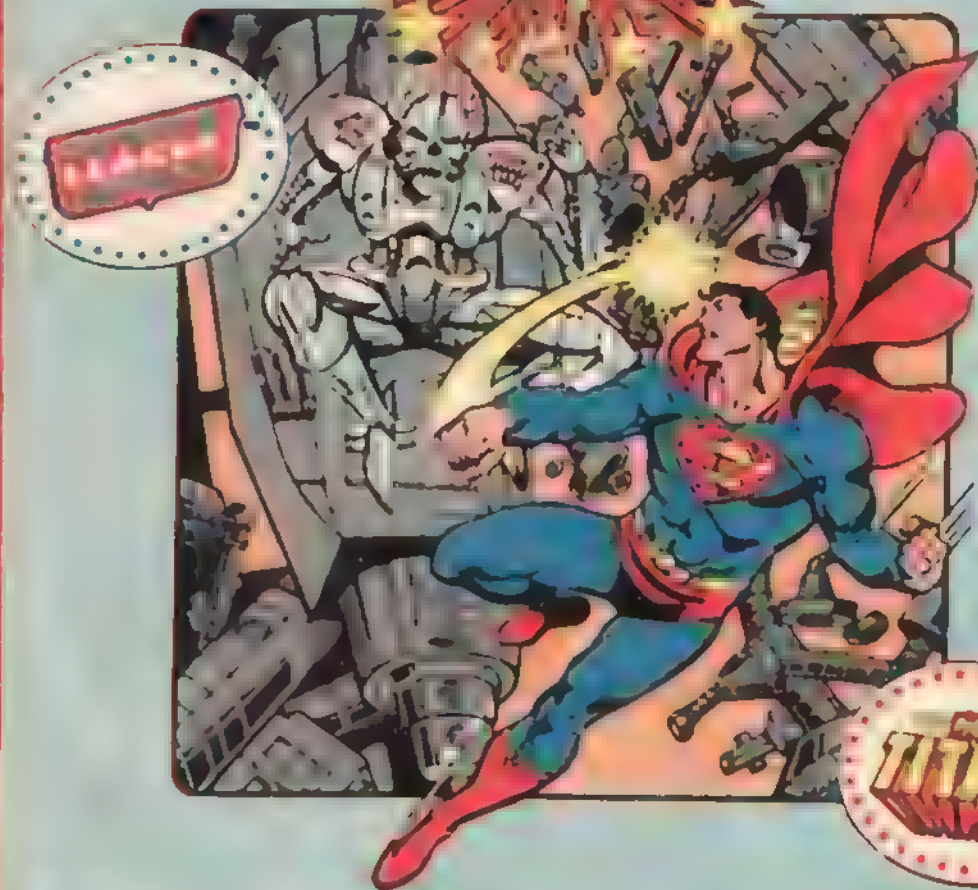
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MEANWHILE...

CONVENTION 1994

Dear Dick,

I was just looking over some *Meanwhile* columns in some of last year's comics. One mentioned comic conventions. I don't mean to sound dumb or anything, but I really don't understand what one is. So, if you could take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to write me a note explaining what one is, I would be really pleased.

Travis G. Heath
Rivers, ME 04412

You don't sound 'dumb' or anything Travis. As a matter of fact, I'm kinda glad you asked that question. Too many of us in the comics industry and fans who live in or near big cities have begun to take comic conventions for granted.

A lot of people don't live anywhere near the cities that host major conventions and we ought not to forget that. We should not assume everyone knows what we're talking about when we speak of comic conventions.

To answer your question Travis, a comic convention is usually held in a big city to maximize potential attendees and to draw guests typically on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday (two—San Diego and Creation, NY—include Thursday others smaller cons just schedule Saturday and Sunday) and are generally attended by a large (1,000 or more) group of fans, comic book and comic art dealers, and a select group of professionals, including guests of the convention organizers, people sent by their respective companies and others who are there because they want to be. Everyone tries to mix some business with a lot of fun. The common denominator is comic books, comic books for fun, comic books for profit, comic books for fun and profit.

Conventions are normally held in hotels or motels that have large enough meeting room facilities or ballrooms to accommodate the basic space requirements of a major convention.

1 **A Dealers' Room:** Dealers pay a one-time fee for the weekend for as many tables as they care to rent. The tables are used to display their wares: comic books, comic art, posters or comic-related items. Fans wander through the room, thumbing through boxes of comics, portfolios of art and all kinds of goodies, hoping to find the items that will complete their collection.

2 **An Auditorium:** for films that are generally shown nonstop during the convention open hours. All attendees can see any and all films for the price of the admission to the convention. Many feel that the opportunity to see these films is, in itself, worth the price one pays to get in. The films are serials, old classics, modern heroic fantasies, and occasionally a film that is rarely seen or hard to come by.

3 **A Smaller Auditorium or Meeting Room:** for film or slide show presentations by artists and writers, panel discussions, auctions, introductions of special guests or special events. Or when it's not being used for any of the above, a quiet place for fans to sit and look over their purchases or catch up on reading this week's comics.

Most conventions offer special room rates for guests and most provide moderately priced food and refreshments on, or near, the convention floor. They try their best not to require you to take the last cent out of your piggy bank to eat and sleep.

In short, despite rampant commercialism, conventions are a place for fans, dealers, and pros to come together briefly, share their common interests, and have fun.

Here's a brief report of DC activities on the convention trail this year.

NEW YORK

D mens on Convention: Our DC 1984-85 short film premiered to rousing applause and the DC Booth was swarmed by oohs and aahs from people in the dealers' room. We gave out DC buttons, copies of our second **DC SAMPLER**, and Batman postcards drawn by George Peter, and not a part of the Justice League postcards that we're selling in specialty shops.

SAN DIEGO

The San Diego ComicCon. The DC staff was represented in force as

advertisers from New York met with writers, artists, and letterers from around the country. Once again, DC overwhelmed Marvel in the second annual Con Feud, this time by nearly 300 points. As always, it was good to sit and chat with our creators and get their feedback, since we are planning our 50th Anniversary celebration. A highlight was a meeting including Dick, Pat Bastienne, Len Wein, Mary Wolfman, Bob Greenberger, Gerry Conway, Roy Thomas, Mike Barr, and Janice Rabe to discuss events in

CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS CHICAGO

The third convention in a row and, boy, were we getting tired. At least this time some of the editors got to enjoy the hotel facilities, including tennis and golf. Our booth was directly in front of the dealers' room and the ever-changing staff members got to speak with the majority of fans as they passed through. Getting to speak with still more writers and artists was a pleasure, especially when we all had a big party that Friday night. We also announced our plans to produce crossover comics with First Comics, receiving loud cheers. Then it was back to New York and time to put out comic books once again—and maybe get some sleep!

ATLANTA

Sunny Atlanta was loads of fun for the DC crew. Since the annual Fantasy Fair was celebrating its tenth anniversary, we took the opportunity to announce our latest *Tithe V*, and watched Jane Schwartz demonstrate what a ladies' man he is. He and Mary got to help judge the masquerade contest, guaranteeing the rest of us prime seats for the coronation event. The rest of our time was spent talking with the fans at our booth and enjoying the con's hospitality.

HOUSTON

Most everyone was worn out and just a handful of us made this one. But surprise! We had a ball, and we know we'll go back next year. Biggest event? A road race on a miniature grand prix race course between Marvel, First Comics, and DC Comics. The winner? Jerry Ordway, drawing the DC entry! The race was held for the benefit of a local charity with each of the companies paying an entry fee. We had a blast and did some good for children who are cancer patients.

Thank you and good afternoon

Dick

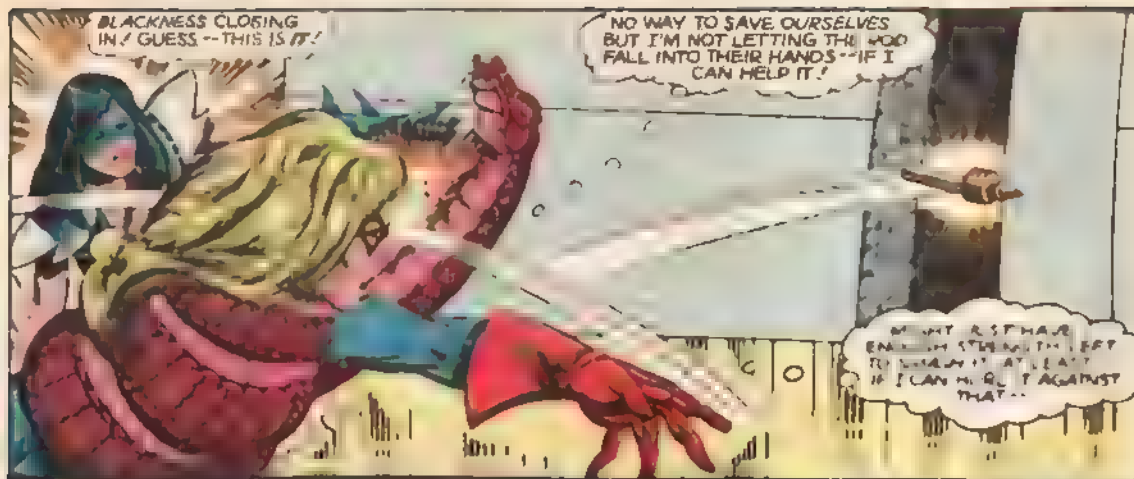
DC
ON SALE WEEK

CHECK
OF NOVEMBER 22
LIST

Tales of the Legion 320: A criminal stalks the HQ and Sun Boy gets a surprise!

- ☐ **Action Comics 564:** The Master Jailer returns!
- ☐ **Detective Comics 547:** Jason becomes Nocturna's son—is this the Dynamic Duo's end?
- ☐ **Jane's Hex 89:** The Gray Ghost's son wants revenge!
- ☐ **World's Finest Comics 312:** The Network invades Gotham City!
- ☐ **All-Star Squadron 42:** A spotlight on Starman.
- ☐ **Aeon 28:** Anon and Chian are finally reunited!

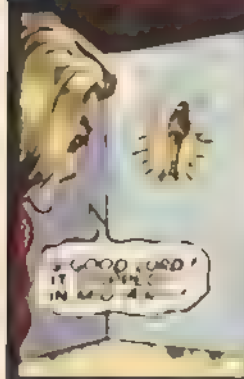
- ☐ **Sun Devils 8:** The Sun Devils look for weapons in a solar core!
- ☐ **Spinner's Galaxy 3:** Spinner and Gagg encounter danger on a swamp planet.
- ☐ **America vs. the JSA 2:** Robin for the prosecution—Huntress for the defense!
- ☐ **Supergirl Movie Special:** A adaptation on the hit film, with art by Gray Morrow!



BLACKNESS CLOSING IN / GUESS -- THIS IS IT!

NO WAY TO SAVE OURSELVES BUT I'M NOT LETTING THE MOO FALL INTO THEIR HANDS--IF I CAN HELP IT!

WHY ASK ME ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO FIGHT IT AT LEAST IF I CAN HELP AGAINST THAT...

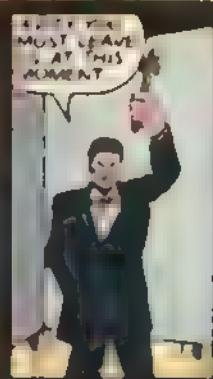


GOOD LORD! IT'S HERE IN MOURN...

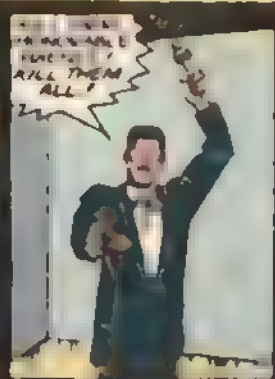


NO WAY AN UNSEEN FORCE

BUT IN AN UNSEEN HAND!



YOU MUST LEAVE AT THIS MOMENT



WE CAN KILL THEM ALL!



KILL THEM? BUT WHAT IS THE NEED, PRINCE DAKA? THEY ARE UTTERLY DEFEATED NOW--HELPLESS--AND WE HAVE THE GRAVITY ROD.

CONSCIOUS FOES I CAN SLAY, EASILY ENOUGH--BUT...

HUMANITY MAKE ANOTHER WHO AND THE OTHERS WILL BE ALONE THE ONLY WAY OF ANOTHER

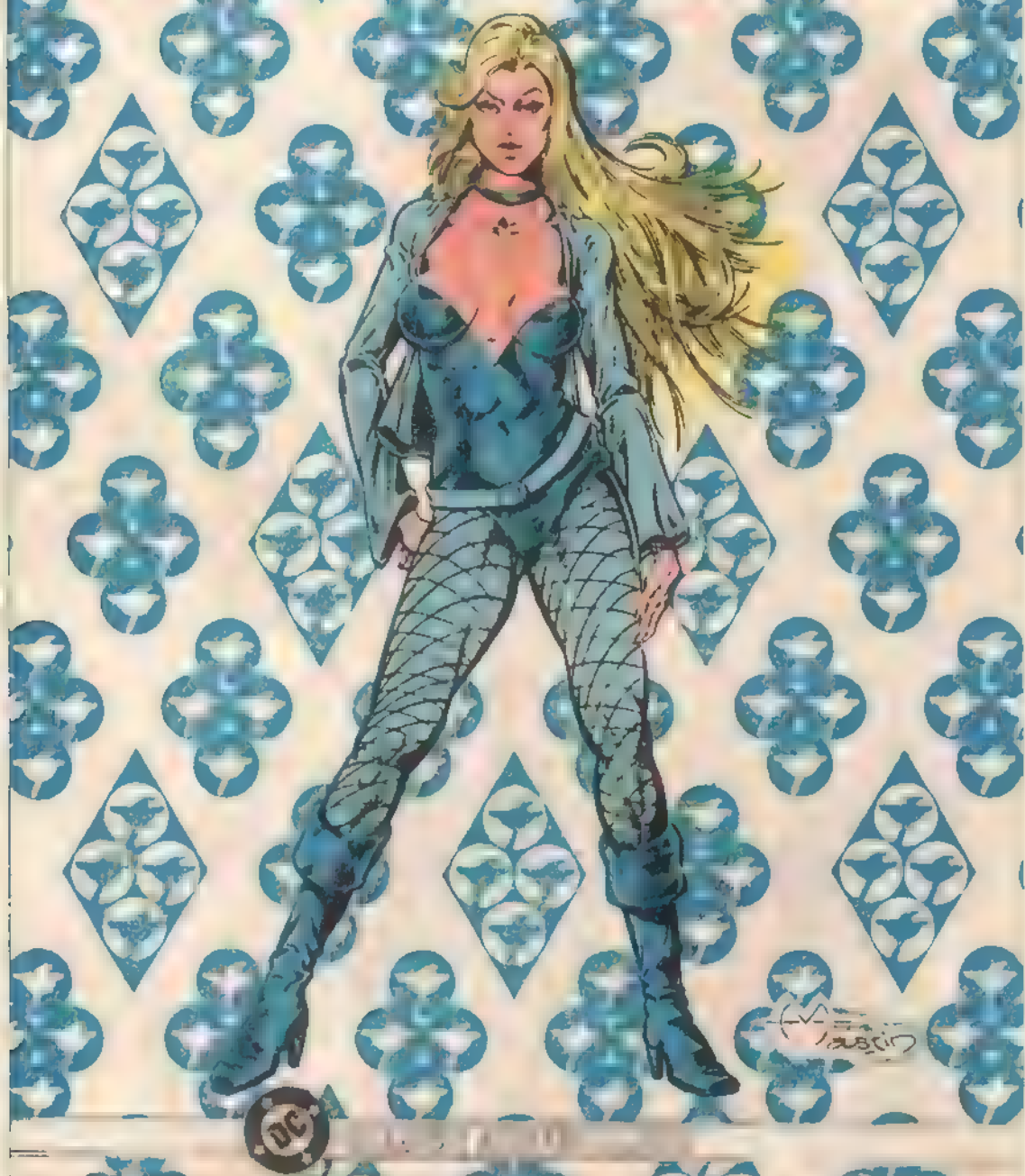
A NEW I WEAR IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR!

AND WHAT THE EMPEROR COMMANDS--SUMO, THE SAMURAI, MUST PERFORM!

WHILE A MAN, STAYS IN THE WAY!

NEXT ISSUE: **REVENGE** of the **RISING SUN!**

BLACK CANARY



We know the Black Canary's not exactly a World War Two heroine, since she joined the JSA only in 1946. But we wanted to spotlight the illustrative prowess of Mike Hernandez, who's penciled the second, now-on-sale issue of our spectacular mini-series *AMERICA VS THE JUSTICE SOCIETY*—in which the Canary *does* appear, at least in retrospect. And the fact that the inking of this illu was done by the very talented Terry Austin didn't hurt any, either. Enjoy, bird-watcher!

—RT



SPECIAL NOTE: Because of last issue's special column on our third ANNUAL, we've compressed the letters on ALL-STAR SQUADRON #38-37 (the Marvel Family issues) into a single LP. Thus, without further ado:

Dear Mr. Thomas,

"Thunder over London!" was one of the best-written stories I've ever read. From the Golden-Age Superman's obvious: egotism—a characteristic we've seen on more than one occasion in his Earth-One counterpart—to the ever-pliable Plastic Man turning into a soda machine, the whole darn thing was a winner.

It was especially wonderful to see the one-and-only, original Captain Marvel—my personal favorite of all the heroes from the 40's—make his appearance at last in the pages of ALL-STAR SQUADRON. I've been waiting for the Big Red Cheese to appear almost since this series began four years ago, and I was definitely not disappointed. In fact, I enjoyed seeing Cap so much that I wish he could be a regular All-Star; but, as you pointed out, that just cannot be done. Oh, well, I suppose I'll be getting plenty of good Shazami stories when your CAPTAIN THUNDER series debuts.

Cap's battle with Superman was inevitable, but it was obvious that the fight was not the sole purpose of Cap's appearance. Everyone pretty much realizes that each hero is only as strong as the creative people want him to be in a particular story, so stories that capitalize on "the battle of the century" are pretty shallow. In "Thunder over London" you made the confrontation between Captain Marvel and Superman just one element of the story, and that was really refreshing. I didn't want to read just another version of the SUPERMAN VS. SHAZAMI Collectors' Edition of a few years back, and I didn't. Thank you very much. Oh, yeah, it was great to have Rich Buckler back, too, even if for only one issue.

A final point, Roy: I want to thank you for ALL-STAR SQUADRON—the series itself. My only exposure to the Golden-Age heroes has been through the DC SUPER-SPECTACULARS, etc.; that's a lot of good stories, but those books really only began to scratch the surface of the 40's. Your series has allowed me to see heroes and experience something I never would have had the pleasure of seeing and experiencing otherwise, and I greatly appreciate it.

Thomas Moudry
(No Address Given)

And I appreciate, T.M., the opportunity to write ALL-STAR SQUADRON instead of having to write most of the other comics around nowadays. Not that those aren't often fine and dandy in their own ways, of course—and some of them are far more popular, if that means anything, than ALL-STAR SQUADRON. But I have no desire to write any comic-book on the market that I'm not already writing—and that, thanks to guys like you, makes me one of the luckiest people in the wacky comics biz!

—R.T.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thank you! Thank you for finally putting Captain Marvel (plus Mary and Junior) in ALL-STAR SQUADRON! How about making them members?

By the way, though, the current issues take place in late February 1942, right? Well, in SHAZAMI #8, it says that Mary Marvel made her first appearance in a December 1942 issue. So how could Mary appear in ALL-STAR SQUADRON #38-37? (Let's see you talk your way out of that one!)

You also finally put good old—I mean, bad old Adolf in the book again. Let's see more of him, Tojo, and Captain Nazi. They're the real villains of this comic!

By the way, just for laughs sometime, how about a tale of Johnny Thunder as a sailor—a sort of McHale's Navy issue?

Lee Solomon
Warren, MI

Think we'll pass on that last, Lee, at least for now. Besides, DC has a little mini-series out right now called JONNI THUNDER, A.K.A. THUNDERBOLT, which deals with a new possessor of that oh-used name, and that's enough, it seems to us. It'll be difficult to show too much more of Captains Marvel and Nazi in these pages, though, until various contractual matters are worked out. (Meanwhile, if you're interested, Captain Marvel Bunny appears in one issue of the CAPTAIN CARROT mini-series, being readied right now for early publication.)

As to the Mary Marvel thing—you're absolutely right. I decided to fudge a bit, stretching my longtime reasoning that a story published in fall of 1942 (as CAPTAIN MARVEL #18, Mary's debut, was) probably happened a little while before that. Besides, maybe Earth-Two and Earth-S were on slightly different time-roads. But, now, that's too complicated. Let's just say that, from now on,

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we can assume that Mary Marvel came into existence in February 1942, even if that fact was hidden from the waiting world for a little while, okay?

—R.T.

Dear Roy,

I can remember owning the first ten issues of ALL-STAR COMICS, years ago. They were a joy because of the many characters in each issue. So when I saw the cover to ALL-STAR SQUADRON #1 and the fact that you were the writer, I began collecting this new series. I read a few issues and never managed to get back to reading any more. But in the meantime, I kept buying SQUADRON as it appeared each month.

Last month I picked up the thread and I received the treat of my life. Your stories are the very best in all of comicdom. You took me back to the 1940's and I realized why I've always loved the comics. Your only competitor, in my opinion, is Mary Wolfman of TEEN TITANS. That's a good book, too, and the art is great; at least they keep the same artist. That helps a lot.

I must say, when Ordway left ALL-STAR SQUADRON, I felt bad, and now Rick Hoberg is coming along and doing a grand job.

One thing about not reading the book as it went along is that I missed out on the story shifts to JUSTICE LEAGUE #207-8-9, but I made certain to catch INFINITY, INC. The art by Jerry Ordway and Mike Machien there is awesome.

I wish you a long, long run on both ALL-STAR SQUADRON and INFINITY, INC., even though I don't care much for the latter name. (But then I haven't started to read the book as yet.) You brought me much joy, and your handling of the characters, whether major or minor ones, is quite awesome in itself.

When you were doing CONAN at Marvel I said you were without peer, and I meant it. It was so then, and it is more so today. You made Conan real for me and now you're doing the same thing with ALL-STAR SQUADRON, and that's no easy task when one is 56 years old.

Can't wait for the JUSTICE SOCIETY mini-series!

Frank Simonetti
821 Palm Av.

So. San Francisco, CA 94080

Wait no more, Frank—the series is running, even as we speak! We haven't been able to keep a consistent artist

there, either—but *Kayanan, Buckler, and Ordway* did a fine job on #1, and we think you'll dig the *Mike Hernandez/Alfredo Alcala* team from #2 on...32 pages of art and story for your \$1, and no ads!

By now, we suspect you've come to appreciate *Arvell Jones* as a replacement for *Buckler, Ordway, Hoborg, and the other talented pencilers* who've labored on this most difficult of DC mags over the past few years. Few people know, though, that *Arvell* was my own personal choice to succeed *Rich Buckler* when he left this series after the first five issues; it's just taken this long for me to get a chance to implement my wishes. And *Arvell*, aided and abetted by embellisher *Bill Collins*, sure hasn't let me (and therefore you) down.

—R.T.

INTERJECTION: Just wanted those readers who've expressed interest in *All-Star Fandom*, a newsletter/fanzine dealing with "retroactive continuity" in general and the *JSA/All-Star Squadron* in particular, has passed from the initiating hands of *Anthony R. Cardno* to *Bill Fivola* at 11 Elmhurst Road, Stoneham, MA 02180. A stamped, self-addressed envelope will bring you details....

Dear Roy,

In perusing my copy of *Michael Fleischer's Superman encyclopedia*, I caught a piece of information which shows that you made two errors concerning the *Earth-Two Man of Steel* in *ALL-STAR SQUADRON*:

In issue #4, *Superman* referred to himself as an "orphan of space," and more recently, in #37, he said, "Ma and Pa Kent found me in a rocket." But according to *Fleischer's* research, the *Earth-Two Superman* didn't learn he was an alien until *SUPERMAN #81*,

1949! In that story he traveled to *Krypton* before it exploded and learned of his heritage. Of course, the *Kents* might have told him that they found him in a rocket, without knowing from what planet—but in *SUPERMAN #81*, *Superman* thinks, "Now I understand why I'm different from earthmen—I'm not really from earth at all!" Which means that all along he thought himself an advanced earthling instead of an alien.

I know DC doesn't give out no-prizes or anything like that, but—GOTCHA!

Dale Roberts
2848 W. Robino
Wilmington, DE 19808

I confess, *Dale*—not to being ignorant of that famous 1949 story (which was a revelation to me when I first read it at the ripe old age of eight, hot off the *Jackson, Missouri, drugstore rack*), but to fudging around that story a little. I figure the *Kents* must've told their son about the circumstances of his adoption—but even he wasn't sure just where that rocket came from till later. The "orphan from space" line was a bit of a slip, though; I should have had *Superman* merely suspect, not assume, he was from another world, and that's the way I'll try to remember to treat it in the future. I, too, have always stood in awe of the scholarship *Mike Fleischer* put into his monumental encyclopedias of *Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman*!

—R.T.

Dear All-Stars:

Have just purchased *ALL-STAR SQUADRON #37* ("Lightning in Berlin!"), and frankly, I must admit that you've done it again! The champions from *Earth-Shazam* were all well done, as were the villains *Hitler, Goebbels, Göring, and Goatsden*—and the *JSA*

ensemble made up this time of *Superman, the Batman, Green Lantern, the Flash, Hawkman, Wonder Woman, and Plastic Man* (though somebody should really teach *Buckler* or *Howell* how to draw *Plas' goggles*)² was absolutely wondrous!

Your love of these characters shines throughout, *Roy*, and these stories often best exemplify what was often sophisticated about the comic books of yesterday and today's pale comparisons, which rarely hit the mark.

I also thought it was great to see the *Shining Knight* back in action in #36, even if it was hardly more than a cameo appearance. Yet that issue was oddly *Superman's*. We've heard about the *Kryptonian's* anger, yet we were never witness to it as we were in these two issues. There was a slight arrogance, as well as a petulance and vengefulness, that actually made me shiver—and the *Batman's* hypothesis (in #36) was frighteningly logical.

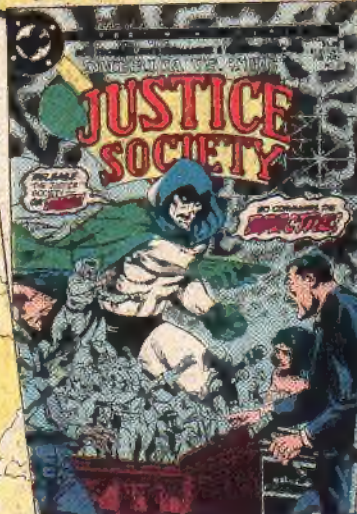
My one complaint with the story was that *Captain Marvel Jr.* was easily stymied by *Green Lantern* (who is fast becoming not only the most popular *All-Star*, but its most likeable member, as well), when in fact *Junior* is the most lethal of the *Marvel Family*. Don't take my word for that—just ask *Captain Nazi*, the man who murdered *Freddy Freeman's* grandfather and crippled the lad on an "Aryan" whim. *Arvell Jones'* work with *Richard Howell* was well-matched, too.

Michael Gregory Toland
Detroit, MI 48212

We thought so, too, *Michael*, though they've both worked separately penciling issues of this series since then, and of course *Arvell* and *Collins* are the new regular team. How do you like them?

—R.T.

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